

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6175

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY//ECJ4/7//

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, LI

SUBJECT: SALE OF ITALIAN M-113-A1'S TO LIBERIA

REF: ROME 8987

1. EMBASSY MONROVIA BELIEVES THAT PURCHASE OF M-113'S, OF WHICH MINISTER OF DEFENSE DENIES KNOWLEDGE, MAY TRACE TO FEARS OF PRESIDENT AND HIS IMMEDIATE CIRCLE FOR HIS SECURITY. (SEE MONROVIA A-07 OF FEBRUARY 20, 1975.) ALTHOUGH GOL OBVIOUSLY IN BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE THIS MATTER THAN EMBASSY, WE BELIEVE THESE FEARS EXAGGERATED. IN THIS EMBASSY'S VIEW, USG SHOULD NOT APPROVE SALE OUTLINED ROME 8987. (A) FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA DEVELOPED IN CONSONANCE WITH US MILITARY MISSION LIBERIA WILL FULLY USE CAPABILITIES OF AFL TO ACCOMPLISH ESSENTIAL GOALS THROUGH 1980 OR 1981. (B) AFL DOES NOT NEED M-113'S; SIX ARMORED CARS OF ITS RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON PROVIDE ALL CAPABILITY IN THIS REGARD THAT AFL REQUIRES. (C) AFL IS UNABLE TO SUPPORT LOGISTICALLY EQUIPMENT NOW IN INVENTORY AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO UNTIL 1978-1980 TIME FRAME. (D) INDIRECT EFFECTS OF ACQUISITION OF M-113'S WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERABLE: REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FACILITIES, TRAINING, ETC., WOULD CREATE FUNDS, EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER PROBLEMS WITH WHICH AFL COULD NOT COPE OUT OF PRESENT OR FORESEEABLE RESOURCES; EFFECTS OF THESE TRACKED VEHICLES ON LOCAL ROAD

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SYSTEM WOULD BE RUINOUS. (E) COST OF M-113'S, AT APPROXIMATELY

\$130,000 A COPY, ARE PROHIBITIVE; GOL, WITH US SUPPORT, IS ALREADY SPENDING ALL IT CAN AFFORD FOR ARMED FORCES AND HAS IN FACT HAD DIFFICULTY IN FINANCING, AND IN SOME CASES EVEN HAD TO FOREGO OR POSTPONE, OTHER IMPROVEMENTS MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO PRESENT MISSIONS THAN ACQUISITION OF M-113'S WOULD BE.

2. FOREGOING FOR INFO OF ADDRESSEES ONLY.
MANFULL

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NNN

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